

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for computer component exchange in a network for executing buy orders for purchasing computer components, wherein the network is electrically connectable to a plurality of owner-processors, the owner-processors having proprietors, at least one proprietor having an ownership interest in the computer component exchange, at least a first owner-processor adaptable to transmit electronic buy orders through the network for purchasing computer components, at least a second owner-processor adaptable to receive buy orders from the network, comprising
 - an exchange server complex electrically connected to the network;
 - a plurality of investment instruments comprising shares of ownership interests in the exchange server complex, at least one of the shares associated with the first or the second owner-processor thereby representing the ownership interest in the exchange server complex for the proprietor of the respective owner-processor; and
 - accounting data representing allocation of net profits among the owner-processors that are associated with the shares, the net profits being extracted from fees charged for transactions in the exchange server complex;
- wherein the exchange server complex comprises:
 - a) a means for receiving one or more buy orders for computer components from the first owner-processor;
 - b) a means for matching the one or more buy orders with the second owner-processor;
 - c) a means for calculating a fee for matching the buy order with the second owner-processor;
 - d) a means for charging the calculated fee to at least the first or second owner-processor, or to both the first and second processors;

- 25 e) a means for calculating a net profit resulting from charging the calculated
26 fee;
27 f) a means for apportioning the net profit based on the number of shares
28 associated with each owner-processor; and
29 g) a means for updating the accounting database based on the apportioning of
30 the net profit.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the investment instruments comprise incentives for
2 proprietors of the owner-processors to place or receive buy orders with the exchange
3 server complex.

1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein computer program includes a means for associating at
2 least one additional share to each owner-processor if the respective owner-processor or
3 the proprietor of the respective owner-processor refers a threshold number of other
4 owner-processors to transmit buy orders to the exchange server complex.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises a means for
2 withdrawing payment for the second owner-processor from an electronic escrow account
3 associated with the first owner-processor after the proprietor of the first owner-processor
4 receives the computer components that the buy order was for.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for charging the calculated fee comprises a
2 means for electronically debiting a bank account associated with the first owner-
3 processor.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for charging the calculated fee comprises a
2 means for electronically debiting a bank account associated with the second owner-
3 processor.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for charging the calculated fee comprises a
2 means for electronically debiting a first bank account associated with the first owner-
3 processor and a second bank account associated with the second owner-processor.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for apportioning comprises a means for
2 electronically crediting a bank account associated with each of the plurality of owner-
3 processors that are associated with shares based on the number of shares associated with
4 each respective owner-processor.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for matching comprises a matching software
2 module that is executable on the exchange server complex for matching a set of
3 requirements in the buy order with the second owner-processor if the second owner-
4 processor indicates that a proprietor of the second owner-processor is able to supply
5 computer components that meet the set of requirements.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the set of requirements are in an electronic commerce
2 standard format.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the electronic commerce standard format comprises a
2 bill of materials format as described by ROSETTANET.

1 12. The system of claim 11, comprising a means for referring either of the first or second
2 owner-processors to a value added service.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the computer program is for charging a referral fee to
2 the value added service when either of the first or second owner-processors are referred to
3 the value added service.

- 1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for apportioning is further for apportioning
2 the fee received from the value added service as part of the net profit among the owner-
3 processors based on the number of shares associated with each owner-processor.
- 1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the value added service comprises a computer
2 component shipping agent for providing transportation of the computer components that
3 are for the buy order, the computer components being shipped from a proprietor of the
4 second owner-processor to the proprietor of the first owner-processor.
- 1 16. The system of claim 1, further comprising a means for publishing statistics based on a
2 plurality of buy orders received from a plurality of owner-processors that are each
3 matched with at least one other owner-processor.
- 1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the means for publishing is an electronic ticker tape for
2 display on an attached monitor of one or more of the owner-processors for informing a
3 proprietor of each respective owner-processor of closing prices per unit by type of
4 computer component in the latest buy order in time that was matched with an owner-
5 processor for each type of computer component.

1 18. In an exchange server complex for computer component exchange in a network, a method
2 for executing buy orders for purchasing computer components, wherein the network is
3 electrically connectable to a plurality of owner-processors, the owner-processors having
4 proprietors, at least one proprietor having an ownership interest in the computer
5 component exchange, wherein each of the plurality of owner-processors are capable of
6 being associated with one or more shares representing the respective proprietor's
7 ownership in the exchange server complex, at least a first owner-processor adaptable to
8 transmit electronic buy orders through the network for purchasing computer components,
9 at least a second owner-processor adaptable to receive buy orders from the network, the
10 method comprising the steps of:

11 receiving one or more buy orders for computer components from the first owner-
12 processor;

13 matching the one or more buy orders with a second owner-processor;

14 calculating a fee for matching the buy order with the second owner-processor;

15 charging the calculated fee to at least the first or second owner-processor, or to
16 both the first and second owner-processors;

17 calculating a net profit resulting from charging the calculated fee; and

18 apportioning the net profit based on the number of shares associated with each
19 owner-processor.

1 19. The method of claim 18, comprising providing incentives for the proprietors of each of
2 the owner-processors to place or receive buy orders with the exchange server complex by
3 associating one or more shares with the owner-processors that place or receive a threshold
4 number of buy orders.

1 20. The method of claim 18, comprising withdrawing payment for the second owner-
2 processor from an electronic escrow account associated with the first owner-processor

3 after the proprietor of the first owner-processor receives the computer components that
4 the buy order was for.

1 21. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of charging the calculated fee comprises
2 electronically debiting a bank account associated with the first owner-processor.

1 22. The method of claim 18, wherein step of charging the calculated fee comprises
2 electronically debiting a bank account associated with the second owner-processor.

1 23. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of charging the calculated fee comprises
2 electronically debiting a first bank account associated with the first owner-processor and
3 a second bank account associated with the second owner-processor.

1 24. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of matching comprises matching a set of
2 requirements in the buy order with the second owner-processor if the second owner-
3 processor indicates that a proprietor of the second owner-processor is able to supply
4 computer components that meet the set of requirements.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the set of requirements are in an electronic commerce
2 standard format.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the electronic commerce standard format comprises a
2 bill of materials format as described by ROSETTANET.

1 27. The method of claim 18, comprising referring either the first, second or both the first and
2 second owner-processors to a value added service.

1 28. The method of claim 27, comprising charging a referral fee to the value added service
2 after the step of referring.

1 29. The method of claim 28, comprising apportioning the fee received from the value added
2 service as part of the net profit among the owner-processors based on the number of
3 shares associated with each owner-processor.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the value added service comprises a computer
2 component shipping agent for providing transportation of the computer components that
3 are for the buy order, the computer components being shipped from a proprietor of the
4 second owner-processor to the proprietor of the first owner-processor.

1 31. The method of claim 18, comprising publishing statistics based on a plurality of buy
2 orders received from a plurality of the owner-processors that are each matched with at
3 least one other owner-processor, wherein the step of publishing comprises presenting an
4 electronic ticker tape for display on an attached monitor of one or more of the owner-
5 processors for informing a proprietor of each respective owner-processor of closing prices
6 per unit by type of computer component in the latest buy order in time that was matched
7 with an owner-processor for each type of computer component.

1 32. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of apportioning comprises electronically
2 crediting a bank account associated with each of the plurality of owner-processors that are
3 associated with shares based on the number of shares associated with each respective
4 owner-processor.